

State Advisory Committee for Children with Disabilities
NH Department Of Education
June 4, 2014
Room 15
4:30-7:00pm
Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Janet Reed, Mary Ellen Pantazis, Candace Cole-McCrea, Daniel Ward, Joan Holleran, Lynda Thistle-Elliott, Carol Conforti-Adams, Patrick Curtin, Catherine Meister, Lynne Clough, Ellen Boudreau, John Jackson, Kerri Lynn Kimner, Maureen Tracey, Bonnie Dunham, Michelle Rosado.

Guests: Mary Steady-Bureau of Special Education, Tom Grinley, Carolyn Blasko

Agenda Item I: Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes, Public Comment, Nomination of candidate(s) for SAC membership.

- Joan Holleran made a motion to approve the May minutes. Patrick Curtin seconded the motion. All in favor, all members not in attendance are in abstention.
- *Nominations of Candidates:*
 - Catherine Meister and Candace Cole-McCrea nominated Tom Grinley for SAC membership. All in favor.
 - At this time, the only vacancy for SAC membership is representation from the state juvenile agency.

Agenda Item II: Legislative Update ~ Update from SAC Liaisons:

- Everything bolded and underlined on the Legislative Handout, in the right hand column is ready to be passed by house and senate ~ which would be: SB 270, SB 298, SB 396, HB 1128, HB 1624.

Agenda Item III: Old Business:

- Bonnie Dunham spoke on "STOMP" ~ *Specialized Training of Military Parents* ~ a federally funded Parent Training and Information Center to assist military families who have children with special education or health needs.
- Transportation Requirements Update: Janet Reed updated SAC on the transportation requirements imposed by RSA 259:96A Administrative Rule 1302.7. A meeting was held on May 23rd with the Bureau of Special Education, Attorneys representing the Department of Safety, Special Education Administrators. Commissioner Sweeney, of the Department of Safety has created a technical advisory to clarify any confusion with the requirements. Representative Laura Jones is looking at emergency rulemaking, in hope of having some guidance and resolution. SAC member ~ Carol Conforti Adams, asked who would be monitoring what happens over the summer with this issue. Janet Reed and Santana Thibedeau will keep apprised of what happens over the summer.

- Ellen Boudreau reviewed the flow chart created by the Secondary Transition Subcommittee. Kestrel Cole McCrea suggested putting in a military category into chart. Many more suggestions came from members, to add to the chart. Note: Continue this discussion at September retreat ~ add to agenda.

Agenda Item IV: Nominations and election of SAC Chair for 2014-2015 year.

- A few members were nominated but declined. Bonnie Dunham was nominated for another year, she accepted and the vote was unanimous for her to continue.

Agenda Item V: Bureau of Special Education report:

- Mary Steady, Education consultant from the Bureau, presented on *NH Communities for Children; Safe Schools and Healthy Students State Planning Grant*. She is project director for this grant.
- Candace Cole McCrea suggested bringing in incarcerated student level. Discussion.

Agenda Item VI: New Business:

- Location for September SAC Retreat – it was decided to hold the retreat at PSU Building at 2 Pillsbury Street, Concord. An email will be sent out to members over the summer to get ideas for priorities and also to submit final subcommittee reports for the annual report.

Agenda Item VII: Subcommittees met and report out:

- *Unmet Needs Subcommittee:* Candace Cole-McCrea reported that the subcommittee talked about next year's priorities and refined ideas for the annual retreat. The discussion included planning to SKYPE in future.
- *Secondary Transition Subcommittee:* Kestrel Cole-McCrea reported their discussion continued on where they are and how they want to broaden the flowchart, including adding today's suggestions. Further discussion was on how it is going to be presented; eg ~ resource books that are not too overwhelming for the student. John Jackson suggested an idea to make an app/website or both on what this group is doing and continue to build it up. Discussion was on how to reach the largest audience, parents, students, teachers. They want to continue to be useful for people with transition link for parent/student. Does the DOE have a student portal?
- Special Education Financing/Funding Subcommittee ~ Bonnie Dunham and Mary Ellen Pantazis reported out. There was discussion on how to improve the special education funding. Discussion around cat aid monies going back to the school district/special education. Also, creating a user-friendly document of where sped monies go. They talked about parents who are disadvantaged and how to encourage them to get training. There was discussion about gathering data and also identified concerns regarding the RSA 198 interest free bridge bill.

Agenda Item VIII: Emerging Issues, Announcements, Current Events, Public Comment

- IOD has posted an Alternate Assessment reference document
- Patrick Curtin has been accepted into Leadership Series through UNH.

Agenda Item VIII: Adjournment

- Janet Reed made a motion to adjourn, and Carol Conforti-Adams seconded the motion.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm